

RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre

1. RCN Study of Nursing Care series

This groundbreaking series was commissioned by the then Department of Health and Social Services in England, and produced 12 reports, an introduction and a conclusion. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RCN Research Society under the auspices of the RCN, this series has been digitised and is available to download as PDF files. Each week we will highlight one of the series.

"In 1966 the Royal College of Nursing was invited by the then Ministry of Health to undertake studies to develop measures of the quality of nursing care. The importance of the subject was well recognised, as were the difficulties, but progress is impossible if not start is made. The work began in 1967. The investigation of quality of nursing care is clearly a responsibility of the profession itself, but nurses, trained and experienced in research, are not yet available in sufficient numbers. The College project, therefore, includes provision for training and supervision for nurse research assistants by experienced research workers who give their time generously for the purpose." Extract from the foreword of the series by Dame Kathleen Raven, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSS

i) Series 1 Number 6, "The Teaching and Practice of Surgical Dressings in Three Hospitals, Jennifer M. Hunt, RCN, London, 1974.

[Abstract: The teaching and practice of surgical dressings is a study of the extent to which procedures as practised in the ward are similar to or different from those taught by tutors in formal courses. The aim was to discover if deviations from taught procedures did occur, how extensive such deviations were and whether the deviations were of such a kind as to be a hazard to the patient. It is commonly believed that there are differences between taught procedures and procedures as practised in the ward. No research before this present study has shown that such differences do in fact occur and that in some cases deviations from taught methods are potentially dangerous. The author has developed a series of check lists which itemize each separate element in a nursing procedure as it is taught in a particular classroom setting. Armed with such a list it is possible to observe the performance of procedures in great detail and to note any deviations. Teachers of nurses will not be slow to see that this method could be adapted to any nursing procedure and could be used to evaluate teaching methods and students' acquisition of nursing skills. The report highlights the complexity of the procedures which nurses are required to master and poses questions about teaching methods and supervision of practice which will be of interest to all concerned with the teaching of students and pupils.]

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/rs/pubs/sinc>

Research Funding

2. Research Funding

We are now working alongside RDInfo, part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), to bring you funding opportunities of relevance to the nursing and midwifery community. Whether you are looking for small or large amounts, to fund PhD's, or attendance at a local conference, the reality is there will always be more requests than funding available. Anecdotal evidence suggests that only 1 in 7 bids for funding is successful; whilst not intended to be disheartening, it is sensible to be pragmatic when applying for funding, and to follow the principle of "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again". The following funding opportunities have deadlines in the next 3 months:

- i) **Association for Perioperative Practice - Mölnlycke Health Care Scientific Award.** To raise the level of research within perioperative nursing. **[Deadline: 30 Sep 09]**
- ii) **Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland - Small Research Grants.** Up to 2,500 GBP. **[Deadline: 15 Oct 09]**
- iii) **Florence Nightingale Foundation - Leadership Development Scholarships.** Unspecified. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- iv) **Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland - Minor Research Awards.** Up to 5,000 GBP. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- v) **Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland - Career Development Awards.** Up to 1,000 GBP. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- vi) **Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland - Travel Awards.** Up to 1,000 GBP. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- vii) **The Health Foundation - Quality Improvement Fellowships.** To enable clinicians to spend a year in the USA working with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) studying the best international practice in quality improvement. On returning to the UK, fellow will integrate their learning at their employing organisation in order to have a real impact on service improvement and promote quality improvement nationally. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- viii) **Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland - Doctoral Fellowships.** Doctoral Fellowship awards are available for a maximum of 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time. An award will provide support for the applicant's salary costs, tuition fees, research expenses and conference travel. **[Deadline: 16 Oct 09]**
- ix) **British Renal Society - Research Grants.** Typical grants range from £5,000 - £45,000, though outstanding applications may attract a higher award. **[Deadline: 19 Oct 09]**
- x) **Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke Association - Research Training for Nurses and Other AHPs.** Up to 6,000 GBP. **[Deadline: 31 Oct 09]**
- xi) **Leverhulme Trust - Research Fellowships.** The maximum value of a Fellowship is 45,000 GBP. The awards provide research expenses over and above normal living costs and/or provide a contribution towards reasonable replacement costs or loss of earnings. **[Deadline: 10 Nov 09]**
- xii) **Leverhulme Trust - Study Abroad Fellowships.** The maximum value of a Studentship is 22,000 GBP. Eligible costs include: reasonable replacement cover whilst the Fellow is overseas; travel to and within the overseas country or countries; a maintenance grant to meet the increased expense of living overseas; and essential research costs. **[Deadline: 10 Nov 09]**
- xiii) **Medical Research Council (MRC) - Clinician Scientist Fellowships.** The Fellowship provides the fellow's personal salary, together with research support staff, research consumables expenses, travel costs and capital equipment appropriate for the research project under Full Economic Costs (fEC). The award also provides the opportunity to spend up to one year in an overseas research centre, a second UK research centre or UK industrial centre. **[Deadline: 13 Nov 09]**
- xiv) **Medical Research Council (MRC) - Senior Clinical Fellowships.** The award provides a competitive personal salary for the fellow up to and including Consultant level in the case of medically qualified applicants, research support staff, research consumables expenses and capital equipment appropriate for the research project, travel costs, and other appropriate items under Full Economic Cost arrangements. **[Deadline: 13 Nov 09]**
- xv) **Fight for Sight - Clinical Fellowships.** These awards are open to nurses. Up to 180,000 GBP. **[Deadline: 16 Nov 09]**
- xvi) **British Association of Critical Care Nurses (BACCN) - Grants.** Up to 500 GBP. **[Deadline: 30 Nov 09]**

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/funding>

Current Research Commissions

3. Department of Health Policy Research Programme - Evaluation of the Alcohol Improvement Programme (AIP)

The Department of Health Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites proposal to evaluate the extent to which the AIP as a whole, as well as its constituent parts, is a cost-effective and appropriate model for driving through positive change and support to the NHS in reducing the harm caused by alcohol. Up to 300,000 GBP inclusive is available for this study. Ideally, the successful application will be able to undertake the study over a maximum of 18 months, commencing early 2010.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 26 October 2009

4. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) Programme - Promising Innovations in Healthcare Delivery in the NHS

Proposals are invited that have the following four characteristics:

- * Promising innovations in healthcare delivery that have a substantial potential benefit and could be applied more widely in the NHS.
- * Being piloted, tested or implemented in a number of healthcare organisations
- * Involving the application of ideas or technologies introduced or transferred from other countries, sectors or settings
- * Have not already been well explored and tested through research

Although there is no formal cap on this call, projects are likely to cost up to 500,000 GBP.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 05 November 2009.

5. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) programme

The EME programme is funded by the MRC and managed by the NIHR as the lead organisation for clinical trials and evaluation. The EME programme is broadly aimed at supporting 'science driven' studies with an expectation of substantial health gain. The clinical studies are likely to be mostly randomised controlled trials but other forms of evaluation appropriate for the intervention under study will also be supported. The EME programme is an ongoing research funding opportunity. Applicants are welcome to submit a preliminary application at any time, however there are three submission deadlines each year.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The submission deadline for consideration in the next round is 24 November 2009

6. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

The NIHR RfPB Programme invites applications for projects in health services research and public health. RfPB is a nationally co-ordinated funding stream for regionally commissioned research. Projects within scope will study the way that NHS services are provided and used; evaluate whether interventions are effective and provide value for money; examine whether alternative means for providing healthcare would be more beneficial in terms of cost and effectiveness; and/or formally assess innovations and developments in healthcare which will benefit patients. Grants are funded up to 36 months in duration with a total maximum cost of 250kGBP.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

Competition 11. The closing date for registration of intention to submit is 11 December 2009. The deadline for submission of applications is 22 January 2010.

Competition 12. The closing date for registration of intention to submit is 09 April 2010. The deadline for submission of applications is 21 May 2010.

7. NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) Work programme Topic Reviews

CKS provide a source of clinical knowledge for the NHS about the common conditions managed in primary and first contact care. The knowledge is practical and reliable and helps healthcare professionals confidently make evidence-based decisions about the healthcare of their patients and provides the know-how to safely put these decisions into action.

CKS are keen to receive feedback on draft Topic Reviews. In addition to feedback from experts, professional organizations and patient groups, they are particularly interested to receive feedback from healthcare professionals who use the service. We can acknowledge your involvement on the CKS website and/or in a letter that you may wish to add to your continual professional development or appraisal folder.

Draft CKS topics available for feedback from early October 2009

- i) Colorectal screening
- ii) Ectopic pregnancy
- iii) Lyme disease
- iv) Halitosis
- v) Hirsutism
- vi) Rash in pregnancy
- vii) Rubella
- viii) UTI - men

Draft CKS topics available for feedback from early November 2009

- i) Whooping cough
- ii) Osgood-Schlatter
- iii) Generalised itching

Draft CKS topics available for feedback from late November 2009

- i) Depression
- ii) Glandular fever
- iii) HIV
- iv) Scrotal swelling

Draft CKS topics available for feedback from early December 2009

- i) Lump in the neck
- ii) Miscarriage

Draft CKS topics available for feedback from early January 2010

- i) Acute macular degeneration
- ii) Dementia
- iii) Malaria - when to suspect
- iv) Psoriasis
- v) Tinnitus
- vi) Vertigo

Website: http://www.cks.nhs.uk/about/getting_involved

Completed Research & Development - Open Access

8. **Campbell, D. M. et al (2009), "Increasing the use of evidence in health policy: practice and views of policy makers and researchers", *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy* 2009, 6:21**

Better communication is often suggested as fundamental to increasing the use of research evidence in policy, but little is known about how researchers and policy makers work together or about barriers to exchange. This study explored the views and practice of policy makers and researchers regarding the use of evidence in policy. The paper identifies four potential strategies for increasing the use of research in policy.

Completed Research & Development - Subscription Based

9. RCN Publications

RCN members can download all electronic publications from the RCN free of charge. RCN members and non-members can order a hard copy of a publication (where applicable) but this will entail a small charge. Recent publications include:

i) **Supporting children and young people with diabetes: guidance for nurses in schools and early years settings** (ISBN: 978-1-906633-11-0; Publication date: 11 August 2009). Abstract: The prevalence of diabetes amongst children and young people is increasing, and requires different and more complex management than diabetes in adults. Although diabetes should not prevent a child from participating in school and extra-curricular activities, research shows that children with diabetes miss significantly more school than their non-diabetic peers. The RCN is aware of inequality in the care provision of children and young people with diabetes, and has outlined the principles that need to be put in place to ensure their needs are met. This guidance is aimed health care professionals and education staff who are caring for children and young people with diabetes. It includes key facts about the Disability Discrimination Act, how to draw up individualised care plans and emergency procedures, and how to access support. The aim is to ensure that children and young people receive appropriate care without prejudicing their health or education.

ii) **Rheumatology nursing: results of a survey exploring the performance and activity of rheumatology** (Publication code: 003524; Publication date: 10 August 2009; ISBN: 978-1-906633-17-2). Abstract: Rheumatology services have to date not been included in any national policy initiatives. This survey report provides preliminary data about the work and activity of nurses working in the rheumatology field. The publication provides an up to date snapshot of rheumatology nursing services in the UK and identifies the scope and breadth of nursing activity, while enabling nurses to compare their skills and competences against other specialists in their field of practice. It also provides an important resource for commissioners, seeking to understand and plan the provision of the specialist support and workforce needs, to commission and deliver high quality patient care.

Contact: RCN Direct
Tel: 03457-726100, option 1
Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/publications>

10. Royal College of Nursing Library Services & Archives

i) RCN Research Series and RCN Study in Nursing Care Project

"A portfolio of research monographs published from 1970-1994 are worthy of a (re)visit. These texts of scholarship on an individual basis represent the early work of many of the founding nurse researchers in the UK. Some are seminal pieces of work, others the products of masters or doctoral endeavour. Many should be compulsory reading for those aspiring to undertake research, embarking on a research career or wishing to explore the foundations of contemporary nursing scholarship. As a collection they present understandings into what seem to be the recurring issues that confound the profession and still today demand our attention." Dr Annie Topping.

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/rs/pubs>

ii) RCN Steinberg Collection

The RCN Steinberg Collection is an unparalleled reference collection of over 1,000 nursing theses and dissertations, housed in the RCN UK library, London and RCN Archives. Set up in 1974, the collection contains a selection of influential nursing theses and dissertations from the early 1950's to the present day. You can search for theses on your subject through the online RCN Library Catalogue. Why not donate your nursing PhD, in print or electronic form, to become part of this prestigious collection? Select the thesis search option and enter subject keywords. You may also search for dissertations and theses via the Proquest database by performing a keyword search and then selecting the dissertations tab.

Contact: Billie Joel
Email: billie.joel@rcn.org.uk

iii) RCN historical nursing journal online

The project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, provides access to one of the first nursing journals, Nursing Record, from 1888 to 1956. This journal captures the world of nurses and hospitals and is a wonderful source for many fields of research, including women's history, gender, class, ethnicity, culture and colonialism. The journal includes articles, photos, illustrations and advertisements. The online journal which is freely available will be of interest to a wide range of nurses, from researchers to students undertaking their first essay on the history of nursing.

Website: www.rcn.org.uk/resources/historyofnursing/historicaljournals.php

iv) RCN Archives

The RCN Archives are the most important collections dedicated to the history of the nursing profession in the UK. Everyone is welcome to use this unique resource. They answer enquiries relating to the development of nursing and other healthcare professions and about RCN history.

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/library/archives>

Disseminating Your Research - Call for papers/Journals

11. Safety 2010 world conference

21 - 24 September 2010, London, England

Safety 2010 is a major world conference bringing stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries and violence from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The conference will be co-sponsored by the World Health Organization.

Contact: Safety 2010
Tel: +44 (0)151 231 8723
Email: info@safety2010.org.uk

Website: <http://www.safety2010.org.uk/>

Abstract deadline: 7 October 2009

12. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "The deteriorating patient"

11 - 12 March 2010, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

An increasing number of speakers are being attracted from the UK. The conference organisers encourage potential UK speakers to contact them, as, depending on the quality of the paper, airfares and accommodation may be negotiated.

Contact: Char Weeks Tel: +61 (2) 4963 5150
Email: change.champions@bigpond.com
Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/call-for-papers>

Abstract deadline: 15 October 2009

13. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "3rd improving medication safety: sharing the lessons learnt"

09 - 10 March 2010, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

An increasing number of speakers are being attracted from the UK. The conference organisers encourage potential UK speakers to contact them, as, depending on the quality of the paper, airfares

and accommodation may be negotiated.

Contact: Char Weeks Tel: +61 (2) 4963 5150

Email: change.champions@bigpond.com

Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/call-for-papers>

Abstract deadline: 15 October 2009

Events

14. RCN Events

Now, more than ever, it is important to keep up to date with the ever-changing world of nursing and health care. RCN conferences and events can help you understand current issues relevant to your everyday practice, such as nurse prescribing, the expanding role of the nurse and policy issues. The new look RCN Bulletin has a comprehensive listing of events taking place in each of the 4 countries of the UK, and is delivered free to members fortnightly. Alternatively, look at the RCN website.

Spotlight on

i) **RCN Women's Health forum conference, "Protecting women's health"**, 9 October 2009, RCN HQ, London, England, UK. Contact: Pat Anslow, Tel: 029 2054 6492, email: pat.anslow@rcn.org.uk

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/events>

15. Social Research Association (SRA) annual conference, "Moving on up - social mobility and social research"

15 December 2009, London, England

Promoting social mobility has long been high on the political agenda and remains a key policy issue in the current economic climate. Social research has a major role to play in measuring social mobility, evaluating policies to promote social mobility and providing the evidence base to underpin new initiatives.

<http://www.the-sra.org.uk/events.htm>

16. 4th Folk.us conference, "Turning the Tide: Research by, for and with service users"

6 April 2010, The Peter Chalk Centre, University of Exeter

'Turning the Tide' seeks to bring together service users, carers and patients involved in changing research culture in Devon. Please join us to chart the progress on our journey to meaningfully influence research. Fully accessible venue. Parking available. Lunch will be provided. All expenses will be reimbursed for service users, carers and patients. Free to everybody. For more information, contributions and registration, please visit our website.

Website: <http://www.folkus.org.uk>